

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01     SAO PA 01566 151942Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 /062 W

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R 151900Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7808

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAO PAULO 1566

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, BR

SUBJ: CHARGES OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN STUDENT PROTESTS

1. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE CURRENT CHARGES OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN STUDENT UNREST IS AN EXTENSION OF THE HYPOTHESES WE BEGAN SEEING IN THE PRESS IN MARCH, WHICH WAS ATTRIBUTED TO MILITARY SOURCES, THAT THE US WAS SEEKING TO "DESTABLIZE" THE GEISEL GOVERNMENT. VERSIONS OF THIS THEME HAVE REAPPEARED FROM TIME TO TIME, MOST NOTABLY IN COLUMNS WRITTEN BY ULTIMA HORA POLITICAL COMMENTATOR ADIRSON DE BARROS, WHO REPORTEDLY HAS CLOSE CONTACTS WITH CERTAIN MILITARY SECTORS. THE CHARGE OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IS A CONVENIENT ONE WHICH SERVES A VARIETY OF PURPOSES. IT TAINTS THE CURRENT STUDENT MOVEMENT AS ANTI-PATRIOTIC OR FOREIGN INSPIRED; IT DISCREDITS THE CIA; IT APPEALS TO POPULAR NATIONALISTIC RESENTMENTS AS A MEANS OF RALLYING SUPPORT FOR THREATENED BRAZILIAN NATIONAL GOALS, SUCH AS NUCLEAR ACCORD; AND IT DIVERTS PUBLIC SCRUTINY FROM THEREAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE STUDENT UNREST, IN THE BROADER QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND, IN THE NUCLEAR ACCORD. WE JUDGE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS CANARD HAS NOT GAINED MUCH PUBLIC CREDIBILITY. PROBABLY THE MOST APPARENT

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PAGE 02     SAO PA 01566 151942Z

FLAW IN THE LOGIC OF THIS HYPOTHESIS IS THAT THE CIA HAS NOW MADE COMMON CAUSE WITH THE COMMUNISTS, WHO ARE ALSO OFFICIALLY SEEN AS THE VILLIANS IN THE STUDENT'S UNREBIT, IN PURSUIT OF LONGER RANGE OBJECTIVES THAT ARE RECOGNIZED BY MOST AS ANTITHETICAL. END EMBASSY COMMENT.

2. PROFESSOR NUNO LINARES VELLOSO, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY (RIO), LECTURER AT THE ESCOLA SUPERIOR DE GUERRA, CONSULTANT TO ITAMARATY AND THE SNI, AND SOMETIME COLUMNIST FOR JORNAL DO BRASIL AND FOLHA DE SAO PAULO, VISITED WITH CONGEN ACAA ON EVENING JUNE 7 TO TALK ABOUT SOVIET AFFAIRS, BUT DEVOTED MUCH OF HIS VISIT TO OPINION ABOUT ORIGIN OF SUPPORT FOR STUDENT PROTESTS.

3. VELLOSO STATED HE WAS IN SAO PAULO TO MEET WITH PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS ON THE CURRENT STUDENT MOVEMENT. IN DESCRIBING THE RECENT STUDENT PROTESTS, VELLOSO POINTED OUT THAT THE PCB HAD ORIGINALLY HAD SIGNIFICANT INPUT INTO STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS. THIS, HOWEVER, WAS NO LONGER THE CASE. "PLAINLY," HE SAID, "THE COMMUNISTS HAVE LOST CONTROL OF THE SITUATION. WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS THAT OTHER 'FACTIONS' HAVE MOVED IN AND PREEMPTED THE PCB." HE WAS NOT CLEAR AS TO WHAT "FACTION" DOMINATED THE CURRENT SITUATION. HOWEVER, HE STATED THAT SEVERAL PEOPLE WERE BEGINNING TO SUSPECT THAT THE USG"CIA WAS BEHIND MUCH OF THE MOVEMENT. ASKED TO ELABORATE, HE EXPLAINED THAT MANY GOVERNMENT HARD-LINERS AND SYMPATHIZERS FELT THAT STUDENT MOVEMENT COULD BE USED "BY OUTSIDE FORCES" TO EXACERBATE CURRENT POLITICAL UNRESR. SOME BRAZILIANS, HE CONTINUED, BELIEVE THAT IF THE GOB IS FORCED TO TAKE A HARD-LINE REMEDY THE INTERNATIONAL REPERCUSSIONS WOULD BE DAMAGING TO BRAZIL. SPECIFICALLY HE CITED THE POSSIBILITY OF WEST GERMANY BEING PRESSURED TO MODIFY OR CANCEL ITS NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL IN THE LIGHT OF ANY REPRESSIVE ACTION TAKEN AGAINST STUDENTS. THE PEOPLE WHO GIVE CURRENCY TO THIS THEORY, HE NOTED, CONSIDER THE CIA AS THE MOST PLAUSIBLE FORCE IN THIS SCENARIO. THE PEOPLE ENTERTAINING THIS IDEA ARE VARIOUS PROFESSORS AND STUDENT LEADERS SYMPATHETIC TO THE PRESENT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03      SAO PA 01566 151942Z

BRAZILIAN REGIME. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IN HIS MEETING WITH SAO PAULO PROFESSORS AND STUDENT LEADERS HE WOULD TRY TO DISPEL ANY THOUGHTS THAT THE CIA IS BEHIND THE STUDENT DISTURBANCES.

3. COMMENT: IT IS INTERESTING THAT VELLOSO ALREADY HAD THE VERSION THAT THE CIA WAS BEHIND THE STUDENT PROTESTS BEFORE RIGHT WING DEPUTY ALVARO VALLE AND UNICAMP RECTOR ZEFERINO VAZ SEIZED UPON THE LETTER STUDENTS PRESENTED TO MRS. CARTER ON JUNE 7. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT HE ATTRIBUTES THE ALLEGATIONS AS "OUTSIDE FORCES" COMMANDING THE STUDENT PROTESTS TO HARD-LINERS AND THEIR SYMPATHIZERS. GIVEN VELLOSO'S CONNECTIONS, HIS STATEMENTS ARE MORE EVIDENCE POINTING TO THE SNI AS THE MOTIVATING FORCE LINKING THE CIA AND STUDENT PROTESTS.  
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